



NEWS

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas L.A. County Board of Supervisors, 2nd District

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Ridley-Thomas Seeks Cost Effective and Secure Method for Electronic Management of Patient Medical Records

LOS ANGELES COUNTY – Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today directed the County's Chief Executive Officer to work with the Department of Health Services and any other appropriate County departments to conduct a feasibility assessment of creating a Health Information Technology Demonstration Project for the South Los Angeles community.

"There is a serious need to improve healthcare services in the County of Los Angeles, particularly South Los Angeles," Supervisor Ridley-Thomas stated in his proposal to the Board. "Numerous studies have documented higher levels of disease burden, health care demand and difficulties in accessing care in South L.A.

"The closure of the Martin Luther King Jr. hospital," the Supervisor said, "resulted in increased emergency and inpatient services at surrounding County operated and private hospitals. As a result, South L.A. is experiencing a critical shortage of medical providers."

Los Angeles County has 57 pediatricians for every 100,000 children. But in South L.A., there are only approximately 11 pediatricians for every 100,000 children.

“Health information technology (HIT) could address some of this disease burden if it is strategically deployed. HIT can help the South L.A. regional medical community ensure that patients get the quality care that they need, when they need it, how they need it, and without duplication of unnecessary tests and unnecessary costs,” the Supervisor said.

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas also urged the creation of a technical advisory group that includes key private and public partners, such as USC and UCLA, and representatives from the National Integrated Health Network Coalition and Health-E-LA.

“A HIT initiative in South L.A. is especially timely as the County works to create a new publicly-funded private hospital to replace MLK Hospital. To be successful, this new hospital must be linked into a strongly coordinated system of regional public and private health care,” he concluded.

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